

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method for ranking relevancy of search results of a search for media  
2 on a communications network, said method comprising the steps of:

3 categorizing metadata associated with said media, each category of  
4 metadata comprising at least one set of metadata;

5 assigning at least one weight to each set of metadata, wherein a value of  
6 each weight is determined in accordance with a content of each set of metadata;  
7 and

8 calculating a score for ranking said relevancy of each search result,  
9 wherein a score is calculated for each search result in accordance with said at  
10 least one assigned weight and category of each set of metadata.

1 2. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said category comprises  
2 at least one of artist of said media, type of media, date said media was created,  
3 and creation location of said media.

1 3. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said value of each weight  
2 is determined in accordance with at least one of bit rate of said media, duration  
3 of said media, sampling rate of said media, a number of occurrences of a term  
4 in a set of metadata, a number of links to a referenced web site in a set of  
5 metadata, a file type of said media, and a number of terms occurring between  
6 specified query terms in a web page.

1 4. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said at least one set of  
2 metadata is categorized in accordance with predetermined associations between  
3 said categories and said sets of metadata.

1 5. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said metadata comprise  
2 elements related to at least one of content of the media, intellectual property  
3 rights associated with the media, and instantiation of the media.

1 6. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said media comprises at  
2 least one of multimedia and streaming media.

1 7. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said communications  
2 network is a computer network.

1 8. A program readable medium having embodied thereon a program for  
2 causing a processor to rank relevancy of search results of a search for media on  
3 a communications network, said program readable medium comprising:

4 means for causing said processor to categorize metadata associated with  
5 said media, each category of metadata comprising at least one set of metadata;

6 means for causing said processor to assign at least one weight to each set  
7 of metadata, wherein a value of each weight is determined in accordance with a  
8 content of each set of metadata; and

9 means for causing said processor to calculate a score for ranking said  
10 relevancy of each search result, wherein a score is calculated for each search  
11 result in accordance with said at least one assigned weight and category of each  
12 set of metadata.

1 9. A program readable medium in accordance with claim 8, wherein said  
2 category comprises at least one of artist of said media, type of media, date said  
3 media was created, and creation location of said media.

1 10. A program readable medium in accordance with claim 8, wherein said  
2 value of each weight is determined in accordance with at least one of bit rate of

3 said media, duration of said media, sampling rate of said media, a number of  
4 occurrences of a term in a set of metadata, a number of links to a referenced  
5 web site in a set of metadata, a file type of said media, and a number of terms  
6 occurring between specified query terms in a web page.

1 11. A program readable medium in accordance with claim 8, wherein said at  
2 least one set of metadata is categorized in accordance with predetermined  
3 associations between said categories and said sets of metadata.

1 12. A program readable medium in accordance with claim 8, wherein said  
2 metadata comprise elements related to at least one of content of the media,  
3 intellectual property rights associated with the media, and instantiation of the  
4 media.

1 13. A data signal embodied in a carrier wave comprising:

2 a categorize metadata code segment for categorizing metadata  
3 associated with media on a communications network, each category of  
4 metadata comprising at least one set of metadata;

5 an assign weight code segment for assigning at least one weight to each  
6 set of metadata, wherein a value of each weight is determined in accordance  
7 with a content of each set of metadata; and

8 a calculate score code segment for calculating a score for ranking  
9 relevancy of search results of a search for said media on a communications  
10 network, wherein a score is calculated for each search result in accordance with  
11 said at least one assigned weight and category of each set of metadata.

1 14. A data signal in accordance with claim 13, wherein said categories  
2 comprise at least one of artist of said media, type of media, date said media was  
3 created, and creation location of said media.

1 15. A data signal in accordance with claim 13, wherein said value of each  
2 weight is determined in accordance with at least one of bit rate of said media,  
3 duration of said media, sampling rate of said media, a number of occurrences  
4 of a term in a set of metadata, a number of links to a referenced web site in a  
5 set of metadata, a file type of said media, and a number of terms occurring  
6 between specified query terms in a web page.

1 16. A data signal in accordance with claim 13, wherein said at least one set  
2 of metadata is categorized in accordance with predetermined associations  
3 between said categories and said sets of metadata.

1 17. A data signal in accordance with claim 13, wherein said metadata  
2 comprise elements related to at least one of content of the media, intellectual  
3 property rights associated with the media, and instantiation of the media.

1 18. A method for ranking relevancy of search results of a search for at least  
2 one of streaming media and multimedia (m/s media) on a communications  
3 network, said method comprising the steps of:

4 categorizing metadata associated with said at least one of m/s media,  
5 each category of metadata comprising at least one set of metadata, wherein said  
6 category comprises at least one of artist of said m/s media, type of m/s media,  
7 date said m/s media was created, and creation location of said m/s media;

8 assigning at least one weight to each set of metadata, wherein:

9 a value of each weight is determined in accordance with a content  
10 of each set of metadata; and

11 said value of each weight is determined in accordance with at  
12 least one of bit rate of said m/s media, duration of said m/s media, sampling  
13 rate of said m/s media, a number of occurrences of a term in a set of metadata,

